

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

32-L

Action

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

Control: 4305

Rec'd: FEBRUARY 7, 1959
7:27 AM

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Info

FROM: MOSCOW

RMR

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 1571, FEBRUARY 7, 1 PM

PRIORITY

SENT DEPARTMENT 1571, PRIORITY BERLIN 112, BONN 201, REPEATED
INFORMATION LONDON 307, PARIS 279, HEIDELBERG UNNUMBERED.

HEIDELBERG FOR POLAD USAREUR

PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, CINCEUR, THURSTON AND WEST.

BERLIN'S 673.

BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DISASTROUS FOR US TO TAKE UP INSPECTION
ISSUE AT PRESENT TIME WITH SOVIET MFA EITHER ON TRIPARTITE
BASIS OR UNILATERALLY, PARTICULARLY GIVEN CURRENT STATUS
DEVELOPMENTS IN GERMANY AND BERLIN. AGREE COMPLETELY WITH
BERLIN'S ESTIMATE THAT UNLIKELY SOVIETS WILL AGREE TO SETTLE
ISSUE TO OUR SATISFACTION BUT THIS APPLIES EVEN MORE TO TAKING
UP MATTER IN MOSCOW AND IN FACT WE WOULD BE USING THE COURT
OF LAST RESORT TO TRY AND SETTLE AN ISSUE WHICH IS NOT EVEN
DRAMATIZED AT THE MOMENT BY A SPECIFIC CASE OF HOLDING UP
A WESTERN CONVOY. WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT MARKUSHIN'S REMARK
TO BURNS IS NECESSARILY PROOF THAT SOVIETS WILL PURSUE THE
MATTER UNLESS NEW INCIDENT DEVELOPS.

BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO RUN OUR CONVOYS BETWEEN BERLIN
AND FGR AS USUAL, (ALTHOUGH AVOIDING PARTICULARLY DURING
NEXT FEW WEEKS USE OF TRUCKS OF TYPE LIKELY TO PROVOKE
INCIDENTS) AND REMAIN ADAMANT ON INSPECTION ISSUE IF RAISED
AGAIN BY SOVIET OFFICIALS AT CHECKPOINT, EXHAUSTING ALL POSSIBLE
MEANS PROTEST AT LOCAL LEVEL BEFORE RAISING ISSUE TO GOVERNMENT

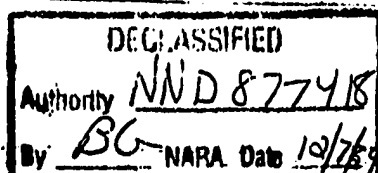
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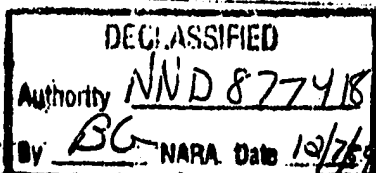
-2- 1571, FEBRUARY 7, 1 PM FROM MOSCOW

LEVEL. WE WOULD JUDGE THAT RECENT INCIDENT WHICH RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY AND IN END RESOLVED IN OUR FAVOR MAY HAVE EMBARRASSED SOVIETS AND THEY MAY EVEN BE RELUCTANT TO LOCK HORNS WITH US SOON AGAIN ON SAME ISSUE. HOWEVER, SHOULD THEY DO SO WE SHOULD IN OUR OPINION REMAIN FIRM AND ONLY AS MATTER OF LAST RESORT TAKE UP MATTER ON UNILATERAL BASIS HERE, I.E., THE GOVERNMENT WHOSE CONVOY IS BEING DETAINED SHOULD RAISE MATTER AND NOT THREE POWERS, AT LEAST INITIALLY.

THOMPSON

SGC

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